

R. W. Bro. R. Ashton, D.D.G.M., Wilson District, paid an official visit to Brant Lodge, Brantford, recently. There was a large attendance of members, and after the business of the evening had been disposed of, the brethren spent a pleasant hour around the social board in the dining room of the lodge. The chair was occupied by W. Bro. Rothwell, W. M., Brant Lodge, and speeches of interest to the Craft were given by the District Deputy and others.

PRESENTATION.—The annual meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 209a, G. R. C., London, Ont., was held in the Blue Room of the Temple, on the evening of the 11th inst., being very largely attended by members and visiting brethren. Among the latter were noticed R. W. Bro. R. B. Hungerford, P. D. D. G. M.; V. W. Bros. Lewis, Dawson, Baxter; W. Bros. Overell, Burke, Simpson, Skinner and others. After routine business, R. W. Bro. Hungerford asked permission to deviate from the regular order, as he had a pleasant duty to perform. He then asked R. W. Bro. J. S. Dewar, P. G. J. W., to stand up while he read the following note:—"R. W. Sir and Brother,—Will you allow me, in the name of a few of your Masonic friends, both of this and other lodges in this city, to present you with this Past Grand Junior Warden's apron, as a slight—very slight—token of the esteem and friendship which we entertain towards you. We express the sincere hope that you will be long spared to wear it on all occasions when you meet with your brethren at their Masonic gatherings." Bro. Dewar, who was very cordially received by his brethren, on rising, showed plainly that he had been surprised for once, and in a few timely remarks expressed his thanks for the handsome gift the brethren had seen fit to bestow upon him. The positions to which he had been elected in the past had thoroughly convinced him that his services had been appre-

ciated, and that was sufficient for him. He, however, hoped to be spared many years to wear the beautiful apron, and to hand it over to the members of his family, some one of whom, he trusted, would wear it when he should be called by the Great Architect to the Grand Lodge above. The apron is a very handsome one, gold mounted, and bears the following inscription, worked in gold letters: "Grand Lodge of Canada, 1883-4." In the centre is worked the emblem of the Grand Junior Warden. After the lodge had closed the brethren, on the invitation of the officers-elect, repaired to W. Bro. Hawthorn's restaurant, where a pleasant social hour was passed in song and sentiment.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

THE late large-attended meetings must have impressed the minds of all those who gave it a thought what a dreadful catastrophe it would be if a fire was to take place at the Masonic Hall during one of these numerous attended gatherings. Deaths would be inevitable, besides contusions and fractured limbs. This ought to be another incentive to the brethren to come forward and facilitate matters by taking up shares in the new Hall company. Indeed, one brother has become a shareholder from the above stated reason.

BABEL.—Remains of the famous Tower of Babel still exist. Each side of the quadrangular basis measures two-hundred yards in length, and the bricks of which it is composed are of the purest white clay, with a very slight brownish tint. The bricks, before baking, were covered with characters traced in a clear and regular style. The bitumen, which served for cement, was derived from a fountain which still exists near the tower, and which flows with such abundance that it soon forms a stream, and would invade the neighbouring river did not the natives, from time to time, set fire to the mineral pitch.